राज्य सभा के चार सैशन हो जाते हैं और लोक सभा के तीन सैशन होते हैं। फिर कमेटीज़ भी होती हैं, जो पहले नहीं होती थीं। इन कमेटीज़ में बहुत अच्छा काम हो पाता है। अगर हम यहां पर दिन बढ़ाएंगे तो निश्चित तौर पर कमेटीज़ के काम पर असर पड़ेगा ...(व्यवधान)

श्री कलराज मिश्र: फिर तो पार्लियामैंट की बैठकों को ही समाप्त कर देना चाहिए।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: इसलिए हमें कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा दिन उसके लिए बढ़ाएं, लेकिन कानून या संविधान के जरिए नहीं।

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा: मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो जवाब दिया, मैं उससे सहमत नहीं हूं। उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया की अलग-अलग डैमोक्रेटिक कंट्रीज़ में पार्लियामैंट की बैठकें करने की अपनी-अपनी व्यवस्था होती है। मैं इस विषय में ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना चाहूंगा, लेकिन आप देखिए कि 1958 में लोक सभा की 125 बैठकें हुईं और राज्य सभा की 91 हुईं, लेकिन वहीं 2008 में राज्य सभा व लोक सभा की केवल 46 बैठकें हुईं।

हम अपने देश की दूसरे मुल्कों के साथ तुलना नहीं करते, क्योंकि हमारी समस्याएं दूसरे मुल्कों से ज्यादा हैं। वे मुल्क प्रोग्रैस कर चुके हैं, लेकिन हमें अभी प्रोग्रैस करनी है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि 46 दिन तो गांवों में पंचायत ही बैठ जाती है, तो कहां पंचायत और कहां पार्लियामैंट! मेरा यह प्रोपोज़ल है कि साल में पार्लियामैंट की 150 बैठकें होनी चाहिए।

MR CHARIMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Extraction of Ground Water

*301. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of ground water pumped out in Delhi and other areas across Northern India is the highest in the world and is contributing as much as 5 per cent to the total rise in sea level, as per a study conducted by the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that our country, along with the neighbouring countries extract 54 trillion litres from the ground every year, a figure that is likely to cause serious concern over the future of water availability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The article titled "Dwindling Ground Water Resources in Northern India, from Satellite Gravity Observations" published in the Geophysical Research Letters (Vol. 36) and jointly authored by Scientists from National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad and University of Colorado concludes that "the region lost groundwater at the rate of 54+9 cubic kilometers per year (trillion litres per year) between April, 2002 and June, 2008. This is probably the largest rate of groundwater loss in any comparable-sized region on Earth". The article has further stated that "the total groundwater loss would have contributed 0.16 millimeter per year to global sea level

rise". However, the above said article does not provide detailed data and the basis for such conclusions.

(c) and (d) The assessment made by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) indicates that the overall withdrawal in India is about 231 trillion litres per year against the replenisable ground water resources of 433 trillion litres. As per United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report 200-2001, the annual ground water withdrawals in Pakistan and Bangladesh are 60 trillion litres and 10.7 trillion litres respectively.

Further, as per the assessment of CGWB, about 15% of the blocks/talukas/mandals in the country are over-exploited where withdrawal is more than the replenishable ground water resource. With a view to address the issue of over-exploitation, several measures such as rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water have been taken by concerned State Governments. Government of India has also launched schemes for "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies", "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States" and "Demonstrative Projects for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain water Harvesting". In addition, a draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has also been circulated to the States/Union Territories. 11 States/Union Territories have already enacted necessary legislation.

Water Harvesting Scheme Under Uidssmt

†307. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts of Madhya Pradesh which have applied for water Harvesting Scheme under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Town (UIDSSMT);

(b) the action taken, so far, in this regard and by when these proposals are likely to be sanctioned;

(c) the number of cities from which proposals have been received for Urban Renewal and Road Construction under the above scheme; and

(d) the action taken so far in this regard and by when the scheme is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Water Harvesting is not an admissible component for funding under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

(b) Question does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) and (d) Details indicating the details of cities/towns for which projects approved by State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of Madhya Pradesh on urban renewal and road construction under UIDSSMT and funds released so far are given in Statement-I (See below). The State of Madhya Pradesh has already exhausted its allocation and therefore the remaining projects can not be considered for release.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.